

When any congregational meeting assembles, unless otherwise provided by the bylaws of the parish, the rector, if present, shall preside, but if the rector is absent, then one of the following, in the order named, shall preside: (i) the senior warden; (ii) the junior warden; (iii) the dean of the vestrymen present; or (iv) any qualified voter elected by the remaining voters present.

And, the registrar, if present, shall be the secretary of such meeting, but if the registrar is absent, then the chairman shall appoint a secretary from among the qualified voters present.

If the registrar does not act as secretary of a congregational meeting, the minutes of such meeting shall be delivered to him as soon as practicable after the meeting.

301. Election of vestrymen and lay delegates; procedure for adoption of bylaws.

(a) First congregational meeting for election of vestrymen.

(1) Date and Notice. The first congregational meeting of a newly authorized parish shall be held on such date as shall be fixed by the prospective rector, or if there be none, then by two or more members of the new parish, notice of which meeting shall be given in manner and form similar to that required by the provisions of § 300 (a) of this subheading.

(2) Number of Vestrymen to Be Elected. The adult members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, resident within the bounds of such new parish, who shall attend such first meeting, shall elect nine vestrymen from among the members of such new parish, who, with the prospective rector, if there be one, shall be deemed and considered to be the vestry of said new parish until the election of their successors pursuant to law or the bylaws of the new parish.

(3) Rector a Member of Vestry. The rector of the new parish when called shall be a member of the vestry.

(b) Annual congregational meeting for election of vestrymen.

(1) Date and Notice. On Easter Monday of each year, or such other fixed annual date as may be provided by the bylaws of the parish, there shall be a congregational meeting for the election of vestrymen pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, notice of which said meeting shall be given pursuant to the provisions of § 300 (a) of this subheading or the parish bylaws, and if not then held, shall be held as soon